

Serial No. 09/925,063

Docket No. 70373-010100

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**Claims 1-20 (cancelled)**

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

- a. blending a backing film composition;
- b. extruding the backing film composition;
- c. calendering the backing film composition between a top roll and a center roll to form a backing film layer;
- d. blending an adhesive composition; and
- e. calendering the adhesive composition between the ~~second~~ center roll and a ~~third~~ lower roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive composition is applied and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film composition is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Claim 22 (previously amended): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of adhering a release liner layer to a lower surface area of the hydrocolloid dressing.

Claim 23 (previously amended): A calendered hydrocolloid dressing prepared by the method of claim 21 or 22.

Claim 24 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein said backing film composition is comprised of a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 25 (previously added): The method of claim 24, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer is an ethylene based copolymer.

Claim 26 (previously added): The method of claim 25, wherein said ethylene based copolymer is one or a combination of any of an ethylene acrylic acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate or ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer.

Serial No. 09/925,063

Docket No. 70373-010100

Claim 27 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 100% by weight copolymer, wherein the copolymer is about 21% by weight comonomer.

Claim 28 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes low density polyethylene homopolymer.

Claim 29 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes additives.

Claim 30 (previously added): The method of claim 29, wherein the additives are selected from the group of antioxidants, stabilizers and processing aids.

Claim 31 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 65% to about 100% by weight ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, from about 0 to about 35% by weight low density polyethylene, about 0.05 to about 2% by weight of any one of or combinations of any of antioxidants, processing aids or stabilizers.

Claim 32 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the adhesive layer includes at least a polymer and a hydrocolloid.

Claim 33 (previously added): The method of claim 32, wherein the polymer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 34 (previously added): The method of claim 33, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive comprises at least one rubber.

Claim 35 (previously added): The method of claim 34, wherein the rubber is any one of or a combination of any one of styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene-styrene copolymers styrene-butylene-styrene copolymers, butyl rubber and polyisobutylene.

Claim 36 (previously added): The method of claim 32, wherein the adhesive layer further comprises at least one additive.

Serial No. 09/925,063

Docket No. 70373-010100

Claim 37 (previously added): The method of claim 36, wherein the additive is any one or a combination of any of tackifiers, stabilizers, plastifiers, processing aids or therapeutic agents.

Claim 38 (previously added): The method of claim 32, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 15% to about 40% by weight polymer, about 10% to about 50% by weight hydrocolloid, and about 10 to about 75% of by weight additives.

Claim 39 (previously added): The method of claim 32, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 58% by weight polyisobutylene, about 12% by weight butyl rubber, about 7% by weight plasticizer and 23% by weight hydrocolloid.

Claim 40 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially transparent or clear.

Claim 41 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially flesh colored.

Claim 42 (previously added): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer is about 5 to about 50 mils and wherein the backing film layer is about 0.5 to about 10 mils.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

- a. blending a backing film composition;
- b. extruding the backing film composition;
- c. calendering the backing film composition between a first ~~roller~~ roll and a second ~~roller~~ roll to form a backing film layer;
- d. blending an adhesive composition; and
- e. calendering the adhesive composition between the second roll ~~roller~~ and a third ~~roller~~ roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive composition is introduced and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film composition is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Serial No. 09/925,063

Docket No. 70373-010100

Claim 44 (new): A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

- a. blending a backing film composition;
- b. extruding the backing film composition;
- c. calendering the backing film composition between a first roll and a second roll to form a backing film layer;
- d. blending an adhesive composition; and
- e. extruding and calendering the adhesive composition between the second roll and a third roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive composition is introduced and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film composition is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Claim 45 (new): A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

- a. blending a backing film composition;
- b. extruding the backing film composition;
- c. calendering the backing film composition between a first roll and a second roll to form a backing film layer;
- d. blending an adhesive composition; and
- e. extruding and then calendering the adhesive composition between the second roll and a third roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive composition is applied and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film composition is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Claim 46 (new): The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of adhering a release liner layer to a lower surface area of the hydrocolloid dressing.

Claim 47 (new): A calendered hydrocolloid dressing prepared by the method of claim 45 or 46.

Serial No. 09/925,063

Docket No. 70373-010100

Claim 48 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein said backing film composition is comprised of a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 49 (new): The method of claim 48, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer is an ethylene based copolymer.

Claim 50 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein said ethylene based copolymer is one or a combination of any of an ethylene acrylic acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate or ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer.

Claim 51 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 100% by weight copolymer, wherein the copolymer is about 21% by weight comonomer.

Claim 52 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes low density polyethylene homopolymer.

Claim 53 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes additives.

Claim 54 (new): The method of claim 53, wherein the additives are selected from the group of antioxidants, stabilizers and processing aids.

Claim 55 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 65% to about 100% by weight ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, from about 0 to about 35% by weight low density polyethylene, about 0.05 to about 2% by weight of any one of or combinations of any of antioxidants, processing aids or stabilizers.

Claim 56 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein material comprising the adhesive layer includes at least a polymer and a hydrocolloid.

Claim 57 (new): The method of claim 56, wherein the polymer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 58 (new): The method of claim 57, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive comprises at least one rubber.

Serial No. 09/925,063

Docket No. 70373-010100

Claim 59 (new): The method of claim 58, wherein the rubber is any one of or a combination of any one of styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene-styrene copolymers styrene-butylene-styrene copolymers, butyl rubber and polyisobutylene.

Claim 60 (new): The method of claim 56, wherein the adhesive layer further comprises at least one additive.

Claim 61 (new): The method of claim 60, wherein the additive is any one or a combination of any of tackifiers, stabilizers, plastifiers, processing aids or therapeutic agents.

Claim 62 (new): The method of claim 56, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 15% to about 40% by weight polymer, about 10% to about 50% by weight hydrocolloid, and about 10 to about 75% of by weight additives.

Claim 63 (new): The method of claim 56, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 58% by weight polyisobutylene, about 12% by weight butyl rubber, about 7% by weight plasticizer and 23% by weight hydrocolloid.

Claim 64 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially transparent or clear.

Claim 65 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially flesh colored.

Claim 66 (new): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer is about 5 to about 50 mils and wherein the backing film layer is about 0.5 to about 10 mils.